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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 45 — WASHINGTON. D. C. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 97

DISTRICT EIGHT-HOUR BILL

Washington, Feb. 8.—The House Labor Committee has just held a hearing on the Peters' bill, proposing an eight-hour day and six days a week for women workers in the District of Columbia. This bill is identical to that introduced by Senator La Follette some time ago. President Gompers and Secretary Morrison appeared before the committee in advocacy of the bill. A number of others interested in uplift work also appeared, and a worker in a local laundry recited before the committee the conditions existing in the laundry trade. Mrs. Grace Coulon, a former worker in a laundry, attired in modest apparel and showing the penury to which she had been subjected, made this statement before the committee.

"I am twenty-six years old. I went to work in a laundry here in Washington when I was thirteen. I am now a widow and have a baby and a mother to support. I get $1.50 a week when I began work and $7.50 a week when I quit work a short time ago. The girls in the laundry work from 7:30 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night, and when there are a few orders or a rush they stay until 10 o'clock. My nerves got unstrung from the whir of the machinery which I had listened to all my life, and had to quit work weeks ago." Following this statement by Mrs. Coulon, President Gompers took occasion to say that "the statement of this woman graphically shows the necessity for the passage of this bill. It is unanimously indorsed by our Executive Council. There has been a great struggle of workers to break through the crust of bigotry and greed which the world know what is implied in the movement for the reduction of the hours of labor." President Gompers further said: "The parliamentary situation in the House might prevent the passage of the bill at this session, but a favorable report from the Labor Committee would have a moral effect and would mean prompt consideration in the new Congress."

INCOME TAX RATIFIED.

Washington, Feb. 8.—It has been close to a half century since an amendment was adopted to the Constitution of the United States, the last amendment being No. 15, and, was the last of what was called the reconstruction series. At one time the income tax amendment was thought to be being sped on its way, the fact that a negative vote by a Legislature does not make the rejection final, the next Legislature has the power to reverse the action of the former body, while a favor ratified the decision is final. By the action taken by the Legislatures of Delaware and Wyoming on February 3 thirty-eight States are now ready for the culmination of the process of amending the Constitution of the United States is for the Secretary of State to issue a proclamation certifying that the requisite number of States have acted favorably upon the amendment. It will only then remain for Congress to enact a law fixing a specified tax. Private incomes, of individuals, corporations and firms, as well as wages above a certain stipulated amount, will be taxed.

MINERS MAY MOVE.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 8.—With the approach of the annual convention of the Illinois State organization of United Mine Workers there is some probability that the convention will take action looking to the removal of the headquarters from this city to Peoria. The Peoria Commercial association has extended an invitation to the miners to remove to that city, and it is said that some of the officials favor the plan, owing to the fact that the miners were ousted from the hall they were occupying last year, in order to make room for a smaller convention, there has been much feeling developed in the minds of those that this city has already lost the convention permanently. The location of the headquarters of the State organization is of more than passing interest to the business community which they locate, for at the present time the miners have a balance of $75,000, which is distributed among the local unions. The convention this year will be held in Peoria, convening on February 19.

ALLIS-CHALMERS SOLD OUT.

Milwaukee, Feb. 8.—The Milwaukee and West Allis properties of the Allis-Chalmers Company have been sold by a special master commissioner to New York parties, representing the reorganization committee as well as the buyers' committee. This firm recommended the operation of a plant for the manufacture of mining and other machinery, but developed nothing further. It was understood that it devoted the larger portion of its efforts in attempting to make a success in this often-tried experiment the company, as is usual, failed, but accomplished its object in the sale of the property in the last act of an industrial drama in which the rights of union labor were not sought, possibly to fair play reaching such lengths as to destroy the business enterprise itself.

TAILORS GET SETTLEMENT.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The strike of the bushelmen, which has been on for a number of weeks, has been settled. The strike was unique in many particulars from the fact that the Citizens' Alliance supplied tickets the same as the tailors. However, the strike has been settled, the employes getting a good raise in wages and better working conditions. The agreement was made with the Clothiers' Association.

NOT SO PROGRESSIVE.

Topeka, Kans., Feb. 8.—The initiative and referendum have been defeated in the Kansas House of Representatives. The measure received only 62 votes, it being the two-third necessary to carry.

A LABOR SENATOR.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 8.—The legislature of this State has elected William Hughes United States Senator. For a number of years Mr. Hughes was a member of the House of Representatives and a prominent member of the labor group, and was the author of the eight-hour bill which passed the House, later passing the Senate, and which is now a law. Congressman Hughes has also been an ardent advocate of measures that were in the interest of labor, and labor now has one stanch representative in the United States Senate. This is another definite result of the political policy carried out by the American Federation of Labor. The labor people of the State of New Jersey, on account of the record made in Congress by Mr. Hughes, supported him loyally in the primary and gave him a splendid majority while, as stated, the legislature confirmed the people's will by electing him United States Senator.

GIRLS IN STEEL WORKS.

Washington, Feb. 7.—That girls under sixteen are standing more than ten hours a day at work that is heavy for men, in the plant of the Oliver Steel Company, Pittsburg, was found in a recent investigation by the National Child Labor Committee. The Oliver Steel Company is owned and controlled by Mr. David B. Oliver, the president of the Pittsburg Board of Education, who gave up the chair at a recent meeting of the board in order that he might go on record as opposing improved child labor legislation for Pennsylvania. Girls of all ages were operating rapid machinery that puts threads in nuts and trims out the burrs from them during the day. For this they were paid from 5 cents a thousand to 9 cents a thousand, according to the size of the nuts; but the wages were so adjusted that a rapid worker would earn about 75 cents a day. The more difficult work is putting threads on bolts they were paid 12 cents or more per thousand, but the smaller daily output kept the daily earnings down, so that one strong girl earned about 81 cents. Each girl tends two or three machines, moving rapidly from one to another, taking out the finished bolt, putting in a new blank, pulling forward the part of the machine which holds the bolt so that the thread shall be cut, and all so quickly that it was difficult to follow the motions she made. The arms and clothing of the girls were covered with the solution that pours over the bolts as they are being ground. On cold winter mornings they chapped their hands, and getting into the cracks in the flesh causes such pain that the girls cry as their work proceeds. Others were tying up the bolts with nuts on them in packages of a dozen; work that requires no skill but makes them stand constantly and lift heavy packages. In general the conditions are not such as severe that the National Child Labor Committee says it is urgent for legislation to meet the public demand of common humanity, to prohibit the employment in foundries of all boys under sixteen years, and of all girls under twenty-one.

OPINION ON PARCELS POST.

Washington, Feb. 8.—"In five years the parcels post has an immense growth in the United States," predicted Congressman David J. Lewis of Maryland, one of the labor group, in a lecture before a local association. "The parcels post will drive the express companies out of business. It will be a good thing for the country, for the rates now charged by the express companies are extortionate. In this country the parcels post cannot take any package or article that weighs more than seven pounds, but in the future it will be possible to send articles through the mail that weigh 100 pounds. In Switzerland, Lewis, who has authority on transportation, said that the parcels post rates were 100 per cent higher than the cost of handling the merchandise that went through this channel, and that the express rates were 1,000 per cent higher than the cost of handling. He further stated that the ratio between the freight charges and express charges in this country is about 16 to 1, but in nine different countries of Europe the ratio is about 5 to 1.

ADVANCE TROLLEYMEN'S PAY.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 8.—Notice has just been issued by the Conestoga Traction Company containing an announcement of an increase in wages for the conductors and motormen, to take effect April 1. The increase is to be distributed as follows: Those serving their first year on city lines, 18 cents an hour, an increase of 2 cents. Those serving between 18 months and one hour; second year on same lines, 20 cents. Over five years in the city, 19 cents; over five years on suburban lines, 20 cents. Over ten years in city, 20 cents; over ten years on suburban lines, 22 cents. These are increases of 2 cents an hour over the existing rate. A claim is made that the Conestoga Traction Company last year gave to its employes 21 cents out of each dollar taken in.

SHINGLE WEAVERS.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 8.—The eleventh annual convention of the International Shingle Weavers' Union, which recently convened at Everett, Wash., was the most successful ever held. Provisions for the extension of jurisdiction to include the shingle weavers of Canada occupied a conspicuous place in the proceedings. It was an enthusiastic convention, and great things are predicted that those who have been made eligible will soon become members of the organization. Many shingle mills are resuming operations, after the usual winter close-down.

IMMIGRATION BILL AGAIN.

Washington, Feb. 8.—For the third time the House has adopted the conference report on the Dillingham-Burnett immigration bill. It contains the clause restricting illiterates, but the character certification provision has been eliminated. Reconsideration of the measure was caused by the rearrangement of clauses to prevent nullification of the deportation provisions.

PROBE COMPANY STORES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 8.—The House has finally passed the resolution for a committee of five to investigate company stores and recommend legislation to put a stop to the principle of withholding workmen's wages. Only 92 votes, out of the session to pass finally.

BATTLE AGAINST INHUMAN METHODS OF THE STEEL TRUST HAS COMMENCED

VICTORY NO. 1.

Just before going to press (Wednesday night) a telephone message from Rankin and Braddock, Pa., brings information that at a meeting of the unions of steel workers at the places mentioned the strikers received an offer from the Steel Corporation of an advance in wages, and the strikers were also assured that the company would not discriminate against the union men if all returned to work. The unions have accepted the proposal and returned to the mills.

The organizers of the American Federation of Labor will now proceed to other districts in Pennsylvania in an effort to secure similar advances in wages and better conditions for the steel workers.

Pittsburg, Feb. 8.—The strike at the two plants of the American Steel and Wire company, at Rankin and Braddock, Pa., still continues, with slight changes. The mill at Braddock is closed. The mill at Rankin succeeded in getting over 200 of their 1,500 employes to return Monday morning, but Wednesday morning the skilled men who went to work came out again. Recently Secretary Morrison visited this city for the purpose of surveying the situation and perfecting arrangements to carry on the contest. The mill owners' plan involved, with their usual facility, have their customary quota of thugs and deputies, and, as told in the News Letter of last week, these company hirelings deliberately fired into a crowd of citizens, composed mostly of women and children, resulting in the death or murder of one, and the probable fatal wounding of another, with a number injured. One man was murdered in cold blood, the victim being George Kamiskki. Affidavits have been made which declare that the man who committed the dastardly deed only followed his victim, shooting him several times. No effort was made by the authorities to hold an inquest and place the guilt until a demand was made upon the coroner to perform his duty.

A committee of the Iron City Trades Council called upon Coroner Jamison and demanded that an inquest be held on the death of the victim, George Kaminski. Jamison informed the committee that he would hold an inquest, and do everything he could to place the responsibility. The committee of the central body intend to see that the relatives of those that are killed and enter criminal proceedings against the officers of the company, who hired the guards, and who were the cause of the murder of George Kamiwski and the wounding of a score of others.

The Iron City Trades Council, through a committee, has also communicated with Governor Tener, and urged an investigation of the shooting. The President of the State Federation of Labor secured the introduction of a concurrent resolution in the Legislature, now in session at Harrisburg, Pa., Monday evening, which had to be voted upon before 11 o'clock Wednesday. The resolution called for the appointment of a committee of the members of the Legislature to investigate the shooting of the strikers at Rankin, and the intimidation of the representatives of the American Federation of Labor in pursuing their legitimate mission of organizing the steel workers in Pennsylvania.

Upon the heels of the strike comes the announcement from the Steel Trust to the effect that a wage advance is forthcoming. This raise approximates 15 per cent for the unskilled laborers and about 10 per cent for skilled mechanics. In other words, those now receiving 17½ cents per hour are to receive 20 cents, or, 25 cents per day increase. The increase for the skilled workmen is somewhat indefinite, and the employes are as yet unable to determine how the raise is computed by the trust, for there seems to be no general basis of computation. The raise is exceedingly small when it come cases amounting only to 22½ cents per week.

Organizers for the American Federation of Labor, speaking the languages of the workmen, are in touch with the situation and constantly keeping in touch with the interest to interest other workmen in contiguous territory.

Aside from this field the A. F. L. has placed organizers and literature in the various steel centers, and the regrets from these places are to the effect that much interest is being aroused among the steel employes. In many places these workmen are subjected to the most onerous conditions in pursuing their employment, and are compelled to live in hovels that beggars language to describe.

While the campaign has not as yet fairly started, it has proceeded far enough to indicate that there is an appreciable awakening of the unskilled laborers, and that the Steel Trust is greatly concerned in the steady and persistent efforts of the A. F. of L. to organize these men. If the true, full fear of organization, continues to announce increases in wages, there may come a time when it will arrive, within striking distance of a wage scale that will provide some of the comforts and necessities of life.

The fight is going to be continued vigorously by the American Federation of Labor.

CARPENTERS' ELECTION.

Indianapolis, Feb. 8.—The tabulating committee elected at the convention in Washington, D. C., of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters to count the returning of the vote on the election of general officers, has reported as follows: James Kirby, elected general president by a majority of 9,032; Arthur A. Quinn, first vice president, by a majority of 4,733; W. L. Hutcheson, by a plurality of 2,007; Frank Duffy, for re-election as secretary, by a majority of 15,262, and General Treasurer Thomas Neill was re-elected by a majority of 9,045. The executive board members of the various districts, T. M. Guerin, Portland, Ore., 5,476; D. A. Post, 5,476; D. A. Post, by a majority of 4,852; John H. Potts, by a plurality of 10,000; James P. Cullen, by a plurality of 4,000; Harry Blackmore, by a majority of 7,984; William A. Cole, by a plurality of 5,000, and Arthur Martel, by a majority of 11,637. By an amendment carried, the general president and general secretary to become members of the Executive Board at the beginning of the present fiscal year.

AID FOR POSTAL MEN.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Compensation for letter carriers and clerks in post-offices duties during rendering from injuries in the service, are provided for in an amendment to the post-office appropriation bill, proposed by Senator Martine of New Jersey. The provision stipulates that letter carriers, in either the city or rural delivery service, and clerks in post-offices of the first and second class, who are injured while performing their duties to be allowed leaves of absence during their disability and paid one-half of their regular salaries during their absence, providing the absence does not last longer than one year. In cases a carrier or clerk is killed while at work, or dies from injuries within a year, it is also specified that the heirs shall be paid $2,000.

LOAN SHARK LAW.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The so-called loan shark bill, passed by both houses of Congress, has been signed by the President. It provides that pawnbrokers are not to charge in excess of 1 per cent per month, the present rate being much higher, and limiting loans to $300 to any individual.

B. T. D. CHARTERS ISSUED.

Washington, Feb. 8.—During the month of January the Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, has issued the following charters: Connecticut State Building Trades Council, Local Building Trades Council charters were issued in the following cities: Orange, Dover, and Newark, N. J., Savannah, and Macon, Ga., and Helena, Mont.

PRINTERS GET MORE MONEY.

Bridgeport, Conn. Feb. 8.—This city for the past year has had what is known as the printing business is concerned, in very good shape, but last December an organized for the I. T. U. commenced an effort to thoroughly organize the town and secure increases in wages. The campaign was successful, and the Employers' Association Union is now working under a new scale, which amounts to an increase of $1 per week for operators and $2.50 for hand men on morning papers, making the new rate $19 per week flat. Operators on evening papers received an increase of $1 and hand men $2, making the new rate $18. The job book and job printers received an increase of $1.50 per week, making the new scale $18. The new scale also provides for apprentices on morning papers, who will receive in their third year not less than $9 per week, and $12 for the fourth year. For apprentices on evening papers the rate is $8 for the third and $10 for the fourth year.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The prospects for the passage of the Federal workmen's compensation measure are improving. Favorable report on the bill has been prepared by the House Committee on Judiciary. The bill has been amended to make it apply to employes of express companies as well as railroads, and another amendment gives State courts concurrent jurisdiction with Federal courts. The scale of compensation is the same as for a favorable report. Specific amounts of compensation are prescribed. In case of death by railroads and express companies to employes disabled by accident in line of duty. Death benefits to the family of any employe are also prescribed.

OPPOSES MINIMUM WAGE.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The San Francisco Labor Council, at a recent meeting, concurred in a recommendation made by the law and legislative committee, that the council declare itself opposed to the principle of establishing the rate of wages whether for men or women by legislation," thereby placing the council on record as being opposed to the minimum wage law for women.

A LARGE ORDER.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Owing to the long-continued strike on the Harriman lines, with the consequent employment of inexperienced workmen, it has made it necessary for the management to order 276 locomotives at an expenditure of approximately $4,000,000.

"SMOKER" BILL PASSES.

Washington, Feb. 8.—From time immemorial it has been customary in the cigar manufacturing industry for makers to make cigars for their own consumption and without the application of the internal revenue tax. The custom, however, by an interpretation of the law some months ago, was overturned when the law was interpreted that the cigars, whether or not they are called, should be taxed. The manufacturers, who have established-ed, was not taken kindly to by the cigarmakers and an amendment to the internal revenue bill was introduced in the House and passed and then went to the Senate. On February 3, without change, the House bill was passed by the Senate and it now goes to the President for his signature, which will undoubtedly be given. The new rate fixes a minimum that each employe of a manufacturer of cigars shall be permitted to use for personal consumption and for experimental purposes, not to exceed 21 cigars per week, without the payment of tax. The law prohibited the manufacturer from being required to pack the same in boxes or to stamp or pay any internal revenue tax thereon, such exemption to be allowed under such rules and, regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe."

A STEADY ADVANCE.

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 8.—The local Butchers' Union in this city was first organized by the A. F. of L. in 1901, but later affiliated with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. At the time the butchers organized they were working fourteen hours a day, seven days a week, receiving wages until 12 o'clock, with wages ranging from $7 to $10 per week. The organization has worked a marvelous change. Now the working day is ten hours, but the week consists of five days and the shops close at 6 o'clock Saturday nights, without either Sunday or holiday work. The present minimum scale is $21 per week and every butcher workman in Syracuse eligible to membership in the organization is a member.

APPEAL CASE SET.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The contempt case, involving President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, which was appealed from Justice Wright's Court to the District Court of Appeals, will come up for hearing on February 25. On that day the attorneys for the American Federation of Labor will file their brief in the case.

PATTERNMAKERS' CONVENTION.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The proposition recently submitted to the membership of the Patternmakers' League, with reference to the holding of a convention, resulted in favor thereof. The convention will be held in Detroit in July.

A JUST RECOGNITION.

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 8.—"The active, pushing labor organizations of the city are considering among themselves the need of a temple dedicated to their uses. A social public building, such as is contemplated, should form a part of the city group, and the city ought to be prepared to furnish a site for an appropriate building in size and design to be placed thereon." The above paragraph is a portion of the report of the City Hall and Civic Center Commission, made to Mayor Whitlock recently, and is of special interest to organized labor, as it is the first time that any American municipality has officially recognized the value of combinations of working men to the extent of favoring the plan of furnishing them, free of cost, a site upon which to erect a building dedicated to the organized labor movement. It seems that there is a plan on foot now to purchase an entire block for the purpose of constructing a group of city buildings which is to form what might be termed a civic center. The growing influence of organized labor is apparent in the present recommendation, and is a tribute to James P. Egan, Editor of the Toledo Union Leader, who was also Secretary of the Commission, and the incident demonstrates that the organized movement in Toledo has made its impress felt to such an extent that its members must feel highly elated at its scope of influence.

OBJECT TO SPEED SYSTEM.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 8.—A strike of the buffers, polishers, and platers in the Harrington & Richardson Arms Company are on strike, which undoubtedly will result in closing the entire works, where over 600 men are employed. The men who are on strike, recently presented a new schedule of wages, which amounted to a increase of $2 per week. The committee, in presenting these demands, was informed that if it could be proven that the increased wage was similar to that paid in other shops in the locality they would be willing to meet the advance. This was done and a tentative agreement reached, although a change in working conditions was stipulated as a compromise. It was understood that under the new agreement the men were to take effect immediately. For two weeks the men involved waited expectantly for the increase which was to be received in their pay envelops, and when on last pay day no increase was noted, the management of the company was called upon and the committee representing the men was informed that the matter had been settled with all their wages they were privileged to quit, and they did so. The employers also object to the speeding system, which had recently been introduced.

NO COMPULSION.

New York, Feb. 8.—Compulsory arbitration is not the remedy favored by President Gompers, in a speech before the annual meeting of the National Civic Federation, in this city last night, but he now before the New York State Legislature. "I agree with you as to the desirability of preventing strikes, but I don't imagine you are going to escape them by assuming to make perfectly natural activities unlawful. The attempt to get away from strikes by the methods proposed would simply have the same effect as to attempt to compress steam or power in too limited a space. You may do that for a time, but you will have an explosion, from which no power on earth could protect you. You may make the struggle to break illegal, but you won't stop the assertion of the right of workers to stop working. I do not believe that even the turmoils resultant from industrial conflicts, and I want to say right here, but that I burden our laws or our system or our lives with conditions that will make our troubles a thousand fold more."

B. T. D. COUNCIL TO MEET.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The executive council of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., will meet in Los Angeles, Cal., beginning on February 17. The object of the meeting in this far Western city is for the purpose of organizing the entire Western and Pacific Slope situations. On February 20 there will be a general conference of representatives of the building trades. The opening of the Panama Canal will present many questions to solve, and it is the purpose of the building trades organizations to be in readiness to meet the expanding immigration as a result of the completion of the great waterway. It is expected that the president of the executive council of the department will visit all of the industrial centers on the Coast and in the West, either on their going or return trips.

LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The strike in New York, which has lasted several weeks, of members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, is making good progress. It is stated that the Triangle Shirt Waist with twenty-one manufacturers in the white goods industry, has been forced to carry a general increase of 20 per cent and a reduction of hours from seventy-two to 52 per week. Also abolishing of the system of compelling the girls to pay for their machines, oil, needles, and such necessities, and furnishing them, and calls for the furnishing of ice water free of cost. The strike in the white goods industry is practically over, there being only about 2,000 still out, they being the employes of the smaller and cheaper manufacturers.

NEW MELTING DEVICE.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A new invention which, it is claimed, will revolutionize the printing industry of the country, instead of gas has been given a trial at the Government printing office. It is stated that 2,000 pounds of type can be melted without a break and turned out a solid slug. The cost of melting by electricity as against gas has not been given out, but there is one distinct advantage, in that no gas fumes are to be contended with. The process will be continued and given an exhaustive test.

FAVORS EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

Carson City, Nev., Feb. 8.—An equal suffrage amendment has passed the senate by a strong vote. Indications are that it will soon pass the House.

DECEMBER IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Commerce and Labor, has just issued its December immigration Bulletin. For the first time in many months the immigration from Southern Italy is not in the lead. It occupying second place during the month under consideration. The immigrants from Southern Italy who landed in America in November totaled 16,712, while for December the immigration from Southern Italy was only 9,463. The largest number of any one nationality arriving during December was Polish, 10,899, with the Southern Italians second, as noted above. Hebrews came next with 8,379; Germans, 6,826; Magyars, 4,730; Russians, 4,307; English, 3,414; Northern Italians, 2,626; Slovaks, 2,586; Roumanians, 2,222. The total immigration for December was 76,316. Of the total number of immigrants 17,531 were farm laborers, 12,237 were skilled laborers, 10,915 miners, 8,660 were servants, 4,128 laborers, not specified as to trades, 2,681 carpenters and joiners, 1,826 clerks and accountants, 1,615 tailors. Those of no occupation, including women and children, numbered 22,244. In the distribution of these aliens New York received 19,586; Pennsylvania, 12,446; Illinois, 6,298; Massachusetts, 5,776; New Jersey, 4,176; Michigan, 3,822; California, 2,591; Connecticut, 2,063, while the balance were distributed throughout the various States in the Union. There were debarred during the month under consideration 1,223, 644 of this number being likely to become public charges, 156 being Southern Italians. During the month 45,618 emigrant aliens departed. From July to December, 1912, there were admitted to this country 545,442 immigrant aliens, and during the same period 187,771 emigrant aliens departed.

GARMENT WORKERS.

New York, Feb. 8.—The situation in the United Garment Workers' strike remains about the same as reported in last week ago. Efforts are being continued to bring about a settlement that will be satisfactory to all parties concerned. Negotiations are in progress, but the point has not been reached where the settlement can be announced. So far as the strikers are concerned there is no diminution of enthusiasm, and they are determined to stay out until they secure a settlement can be had that means material betterment in the conditions of the trade. In extensive strikes in this industry considerable time is usually required to bring the employers and manufacturers are willing to recognize the meritorious demands of the employes, but fully realize that any advance contest which the manufacturers may impose. In this strike it is hoped to prevent the New York manufacturers from obtaining assistance from outside sources. Aside from the strike movement centers coming in the wake of a general contest, the United Garment Workers are meeting success in a number of localities, including one of the most gallant fights ever made by the organization.

PERFECTING ORGANIZATION.

Gary, Ind., Feb. 8.—The Building Trades of Lake County, comprising Gary and the surrounding territory, have organized a council, which will bring all building trades under the building trades department, the building industry of this section. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the past, and it seems to be a unanimity of opinion that the building trades organization can largely do away with the disagreements conditions of labor if all the crafts can be brought together under one head and the longstanding disputes of the jurisdictive crafts. More activity is apparent in the building trades here now than for many years past.

RAILROADS MAKE MONEY.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The railroads are still reporting large gross and net receipts. For the first half of the 12 months, ending November, 1912, the gain in gross was $8,823,265, and the gain in net $1,834,000. For November, 1912, there was an increase in December gross business not far from $750,000, with a like net increase. Nebraska roads reports a gain of $246,730, or more than 11 per cent. This company is the first half of the 12 months earned its full charges for the twelve months and a good sized surplus besides. For December, 1912, earnings of all American railroads increased $20,000,000, or 12½ per cent. The increase in net earnings was about $17,000,000, or 15 per cent.

MORE PAY FOR FLIERS.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Congress has passed a bill increasing the pay of army and navy officers who may be detailed to duty in the aviation corps. The increase is to be 10 per cent of the pay received. The extra compensation is not to be paid to officers who have been detailed for not more than thirty officers of the army and thirty of the navy. Enlisted men are to be detailed to the aviation service.

WILL ATTEND CONVENTION.

Washington, Feb. 8.—President Gompers will attend the convention of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, which will be held in Indianapolis, commencing on February 24. The convention was scheduled to be held last September, which action was postponed. It is anticipated that practically all local unions of the country will be represented at the convention.

MAGNIFICENT SHOWING MADE BY THE WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS IN 1912

Denver, Colo., Feb. 8.—There are many benefits derived from organized effort which cannot be measured by increased wages and shorter workday. The spirit of fraternity engendered by organization, the growth of independence and self-respect that come with cooperation and the realization of power to accomplish results through co-operation are only estimated. During the year 1912 the members of the Western Federation of Miners made splendid progress, perhaps greater than in any preceding year. The benefits derived are a direct ratio to the strength of the organization. These gains are of such an emphatic character that renewed interest should be awakened in every member of the Federation. The officers of the Western Federation of Miners are now compiling for their annual reports the increases in wages and the reduction in hours secured by the local unions, which have been reported to the parent body. While these reports are not by any means complete yet, they form an interesting summary of the benefits which have been secured during the year mentioned. From the data at hand on February 1, the following statement is made up, with the advantage gained during the year 1912:

Increase in wages for the year...	$1,447,238.00
Increase in wages per month....	256,852.50
Increase per member per year....	26.76
Average increase per member per month	2.23
Number of men benefited.....	24,996
Total reduction in hours of labor for the year.....	2,983,510
Total reduction in hours of labor per month.....	248,626
Number of men benefited.....	24,996

The total wages saved by reduction of hours, computing at 27½ cents per hour, amounts to $1,116,816.25. No reduction in wages was accompanied with the reduction in the hours mentioned. The grand total gain to the men working in the mines, mills and smelter camps organized under the Western Federation of Miners, according to the scale of wages paid, amounts to $1,561,044.25. This report is one of the best compiled for the year 1912 by any organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and testifies to the integrity and ability of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners, as well as to the solidarity of the metal miners. The miners' organization has been compelled to meet obstacles which, at times, seemed insurmountable, but they have, with fortitude and loyalty conquered the enemies and unfair conditions which confronted them, and to-day stand as one of the most effective trade unions in the organized labor movement.